

displaying a plurality of bid icons, each corresponding to a bid for a quantity of items, each bid icon at a location along a first axis of values corresponding to the value of the bid, including bids having different values; and displaying a plurality of offer icons, each corresponding to an offer type order for a quantity of items, each offer icon at a location along the first axis of values corresponding to the value of the offer, including offers having different values.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
providing an order token whose size is adjustable by the user to reflect the quantity of the order.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein providing an order icon further comprises:  
providing an order icon which can be moved to a location corresponding to the value of the order.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
receiving a request for an order responsive to a user action specifying a quantity of items and value for the order; and  
displaying further comprises displaying a requested order icon corresponding to the specified quantity and value information.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein slots are created within which icons are displayed, the received request for an order is of the bid type, and displaying further comprises displaying a bid icon corresponding to the specified quantity and value information, the method further comprising:  
placing the requested bid icon into a slot adjacent a slot containing a bid icon having a value closest to and greater than the value of the bid.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:  
determining whether the slot currently contains a bid icon; and  
responsive to determining that the slot contains a bid icon, displacing the bid icon  
currently within the slot.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising:  
determining whether the slot contains a currently existing bid icon;  
responsive to determining the slot contains a currently existing bid icon,  
determining the value of the currently existing bid icon;  
responsive to determining that the currently existing bid icon has a value less than  
the requested bid icon, displacing the currently existing bid icon from the  
slot; and  
responsive to determining that the currently existing bid icon has a value equal to  
the value of the requested bid icon, placing the requested bid icon into the  
slot adjacent the currently existing bid icon within the slot, wherein the  
order of the bid icons in the slot indicates the order that the bids would be  
matched against offers.

8. The method of claim 7 in a system in which the first axis is displayed in a vertical  
direction and the slots are positioned vertically, and wherein placing the requested bid icon  
further comprises placing the requested bid icon vertically adjacent the currently existing bid  
icon.

9. The method of claim 4 wherein slots are created within which icons are displayed, and the  
received request for an order is of the offer type, displaying further comprises displaying an offer  
icon corresponding to the specified quantity and value information further comprising:  
placing the requested offer icon into a slot adjacent a slot containing an offer icon  
having a value closest to and less than the value of the offer.

10. The method of claim 4 in a system in which order icons placed by a user are displayed to the user with a first visual characteristic, and order icons placed by other users are displayed with a second visual characteristic to the user, and wherein displaying an order icon further comprises:

displaying the requested order icon with the first visual characteristic to the user who requested the order; and

displaying the requested order icon with the second visual characteristic to other users.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

displaying an order icon having an edge which is angled toward the axis of values.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a new order for a quantity of items for a specified value;

generating an order icon whose size corresponds to the quantity of items bid for; and

placing the order icon at a location along the axis of values corresponding to the specified value of the order.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the order is a bid type further comprising:

determining whether a currently displayed offer icon is located at the specified value or less than the specified value;

responsive to determining that a currently displayed offer icon is located at the specified value, determining a quantity specified by the currently displayed offer icon; and

responsive to the quantity of the currently displayed offer icon being equal to the quantity of the bid, removing the currently displayed offer icon.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

responsive to the quantity of the currently displayed offer icon being less than the

quantity of the bid, displaying a bid icon whose size corresponds to the difference between the quantity of the bid and the quantity of the offer.

15. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

responsive to the quantity of the offer being greater than the quantity of the bid,  
modifying the display of the offer icon to a size that corresponds to the difference between the quantity of the bid and the quantity of the offer.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a new order for a quantity of items for a specified value;  
generating an order icon whose size corresponds to the quantity of items for which  
the offer is made; and  
placing the order icon at a location with respect to the axis of values corresponding  
to the specified value of the offer.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising:

determining whether a currently displayed order icon of the same type as the new  
order is located at the specified value; and  
responsive to determining that a currently displayed order icon of the same type as  
the new order is located at the specified value, placing the generated order  
icon adjacent the currently displayed order icon where the displayed order of  
the offer icons with the same value indicate the order that the offers would  
be matched against bids.

18. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

generating a second axis, perpendicular to the first axis, representing time;  
generating a third axis, perpendicular to the second axis, representing value; and  
displaying a historical chart representing values of the item responsive to time and  
value with respect to the second and third axes.

28. (Once Amended) A method for placing an order for an item at a desired value for a desired quantity in a system in which remote terminals display all outstanding orders for the item wherein orders comprise bids and offers, and a transaction server receives orders transmitted by each remote terminal and communicates the received orders to all remote terminals, comprising:  
displaying a plurality of order tokens having different values; receiving a selection for an order token; and  
moving the order token to a user specified location with respect to a value axis and a quantity axis which corresponds to the desired value and quantity for the order.

32. A method of displaying trading activity of a plurality of traders comprising:  
displaying a trading pit;  
determining for each trader, an activity level; and  
displaying for each trader a token representing the trader at a location in the trading pit which corresponds to the activity level of the trader.